

## AFSPC/CC praises teamwork during Thule visit

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Jennifer Tribble  
821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

THULE AIR BASE, GREENLAND – Air Force Space Command leadership praised the professionalism and teamwork of Airmen here during a visit to the “top of the world” Oct. 23-25.

General Lance W. Lord, AFSPC Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, AFSPC Command Chief, traveled 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle to personally interact with the men and women performing and supporting Thule’s operational missions of missile warning, space surveillance and satellite telemetry and tracking.

“I’ve seen nothing but professionals here,” General Lord remarked.

The visit included a trip to the 12<sup>th</sup> Space Warning Squadron Ballistic Missile Early Warning System-Site I where General Lord and Chief Master Sgt. Kriete met with space operators in the Missile Warning Operations Center.

The 12 SWS is a unit of the 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing, headquartered at Peterson AFB, Colo., under Air Force Space Command.

General Lord and Chief Master Sgt. Kriete also visited Detachment 3, 22<sup>nd</sup> Space Operations Squadron, 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colo. Detachment 3, also known as “POGO”, is the largest and northernmost unit of eight worldwide satellite tracking stations in the Air Force Satellite Control Network.

“The space mission is important,” General Lord said. “What we do today in the Air Force can’t be done without space.”

During his visit, General Lord addressed Airmen here at a Commander’s Call. He shared information about the Air Force’s new utility uniform, the new space badge, space professional development and the future of space operations.

“Throughout the Air Force, operations tempo is high and people are deployed around the world. The Airmen here at Thule know what that’s like,” he said. “You are very important to the mission and I appreciate everything each and every



Photos by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jennifer Tribble

**Top: General Lance W. Lord (center), Commander, Air Force Space Command, visits Thule Air Base’s pier with Colonel John S. Haven (right), 821 Air Base Group Commander, during a visit Oct. 23-25. The 821st ABG operates and maintains Thule Air Base in support of missile warning, space surveillance and satellite telemetry and tracking missions. It also operates the Department of Defense’s northernmost deep-water seaport. Above: General Lance W. Lord addresses Airmen during a Commander’s Call.**

one of you are doing.”

The General also noted that now is an exciting time to be a part of the Air Force and Air Force Space Command. He said he would welcome the opportunity to trade places with young troops entering the Air Force today. He promises that there is much to see in the days ahead and that improvements and advancements in space will be nothing short of exciting.

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# Accepting the challenge

## Making the transition into the 'Top 3'

By Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Stickel  
821st Support Squadron

Making the transition from Tech Sergeant to Master Sergeant is more than changing your stripes. Now you are a Senior Noncommissioned Officer, held to higher standards, expected to lead and mentor all your troops to higher standards.

The biggest transition you will have to make is going from worker/supervisor to supervisor/leader. Selectees, think back to your early years as an Airman or young NCO when your shop chief or commander implemented a new policy or procedure in which you thought was the dumbest thing in the world. You probably said to yourself or to your co-workers, "What in the world are they thinking about. I can't wait until I'm in charge, I'll never do that."

Well guess what, the shoe is on the other foot now. You're about to be "in charge."

Sometime in the near future you'll

be faced with changing a policy; it could be anything from changing the duty schedule or reorganizing your flight. It might be something you don't want to do, but you must remember what is best for the mission.

It might not be the most popular or easiest decision you'll ever make, but it's one that has to be made.

You've now spent approximately 15 years or so with a screwdriver, wrench, or some sort of equipment in your hands working in the trenches, honing your skills to the point that you are now the technical expert in your field. Then one day, "Bam!"

You're now a supervisor working behind a desk, out of your comfort zone, dealing with manning issues, budgets, going to meetings and by the way, the first sergeant just called saying one your troops has been bouncing checks all over town.

I'm not trying to scare you, but remember that it took years of trench-work to become an expert in your career field. Give supervising time and

you will become the expert at this too.

To the Airman and NCO's, you can expect a major change in your colleague when they put their top stripe on; from this point on, the pressures of the job will take a toll on them. There will be times when the former Tech Sergeant who used to always be in the duty section willing to help you with anything, will now be in endless meetings with the commander and the first sergeant. They will make decisions you don't understand or approve of.

But remember one thing, they always have your best interest at heart.

The transition from NCO to SCNO affects more than the enlisted, it also affects the officers, from Lieutenants to Generals. Lieutenants and Captains, take a look at your new Master Sergeants, they are your experts. Give them the chance to run their sections. Now more than ever they need your support.

*(Continued on Pg. 6)*



Above left: The SNCO inductees pose for a group photo. (From left) Master Sgt. Philip Kyger, Master Sgt. Scott Stolte, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Reed, Tech Sgt. George Nicolas, Tech Sgt. Keith Turney, Master Sgt. John Montgomery and Master Sgt. Eugene Vesey. Top right: Tech Sgt. Keith Turney lights a candle at the beginning of the ceremony. Above right: Inductees are congratulated at the conclusion of the SNCO Induction Ceremony Oct 21.

# CMSAF addresses top issues

By Senior Airman Deanna McClay  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

11/1/2004 - DALLAS (AFPN) -- Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray addressed hundreds of troops attending the 2004 Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium on Oct. 29, an event he has been unable to attend in years past.

Chief Murray gave his insight on three main topics he said he feels are the backbone of the enlisted corps: Airmen taking care of Airmen, war readiness and developing Airmen.

Most importantly, the chief addressed the issue of Airmen taking care of Airmen.

"With all the priorities the secretary of the Air Force has, he is most focused on suicide prevention and sexual assault," Chief Murray said. "This grates on the boss, it grates on me, and it should grate on all of you.

"In the month of November, the senior leaders have asked for a focused down-day, command by command, to take time to look each other in the face and make sure we understand how important the lives of our Airmen are. Too many Airmen make a permanent solution to a temporary problem," he said of the recent upsurge in suicides in the Air Force.

A part of that focus is face-to-face interaction on a daily basis with co-workers, he said.

"We have to pull ourselves away from the computer and email and get out every day so that we can understand what our Airmen go through," he said.

The fact that our [working environment] has changed means we need to help our Airmen adapt to that change."

In talking about readiness, the chief cited Airmen who are not well known, but who are heroes just the same -- Airmen who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

"I tell you this because this is the cost of our service today," he said. "These [Airmen] are heroes among us."

In light of the number of Airmen who now see combat in deployed locations, Chief Murray said policies have been reviewed and, in some cases, rewritten.

"Things are different today [than in past wars]," he said. "We certainly never had 2,000 Airman working with the Army on convoy operations and fuel stops. What we must prepare Airmen for is different than what we've prepared them for in the past."

Besides the policies on training Airmen before they deploy, some of the policies regarding their return also have changed.

"Right now, we have people returned to full duty that would not have been in the past," he said. "The secretary [of the Air Force] has asked us to look for civilian employment for those who may not be able to work in military employment so we can continue to offer opportunities. It's a new way to give to those who have (given) so much."

The chief said he also recognizes how busy Air Mobility Command Airmen are, and that often, crews do not fall squarely into the air and space expeditionary force system.

"Some of you in Air Mobility Command don't know what an AEF cycle is," he said. "Those (working) on the C-130 [Hercules], C-5 [Galaxys] and the tanker fleets -- you're [involved with] all AEFs."

The chief said that meeting the new challenges of the war requires more Airman development and a total team effort.

"No longer can we have any part of our team -- officers, enlisted or civilians -- not looked at deliberately in [figuring out] how and when to apply education and training and experience ..." he said. "We want you to have the very best leadership you can possibly have."

In looking at Airman development, the chief said there are some changes scheduled to take place besides the changes already in effect.

He outlined the professional military education schedule, which involves all ranks. From chief master sergeants to airmen, there is a PME program to strengthen leadership skills and teach new ones.

"We're getting back to PME," he said. "Every newly promoted master sergeant will attend a three- to five-day seminar to make sure they're ready to step into that role.

"Then we have staff sergeants and tech sergeants; in addition to the Airman Leadership School they've already attended, ... they, too, will get training in their work-centers to make sure they are the type of leader they need to be."

*(Continued on Pg. 9)*

## Upcoming Birthdays

**Tech Sgt. Keith Turney**

**Tech Sgt. Tom Davis**

**Master Sgt. John Montgomery**

**Nov. 8**

**Nov. 9**

**Nov. 12**



## Upholding tradition, exceeding expectations, fulfilling needs

By Tech Sgt. Keith Turney  
Thule Air Base Color Guard

When I arrived at Thule last December, one of the first things my supervisor told me was, "Hey, I need \$8 from you. The Quarterly Awards Luncheon is next week." So, I forked over the dough and didn't think about it again until the following week.

Having been in the Air Force for a few years, I've attended quite a few of these events and was actually a little surprised at the formality of the setting here at Thule. The club had been set up really nice, and for such a small base, the turnout for the event was amazing. As we all stood and awaited the arrival of the official party and the posting of the colors, I remember thinking, "Wow, they have an Honor Guard up here?"

Well, as I soon learned, Thule doesn't have an official Honor Guard unit, but a Color Guard unit, comprised solely of outstanding Airmen of all ranks who volunteer their off-duty time to practice, for and support, the numerous functions

that occur throughout the year here.

Many of the people who volunteer are young Airmen who probably would not have the opportunity to be a part of such a prized unit at most bases. There are also several NCO's who participate and provide leadership and mentorship for these young Airmen. Some have been around the block a couple times, like myself, and others are young Staff Sergeants who have a strong desire to promote professionalism, customs and courtesies through their involvement.

After watching from the sidelines for a couple of months, I knew that I had to be involved in this group.

Last summer there was much hubbub about the Queen of Denmark and her upcoming visit to Thule. The Color Guard was scheduled to play a vital role in her arrival, providing a 21-Rifle Cordon that would line the red carpet at her arrival.

Dozens of hours of practice went into perfecting all of the moves we were required to perform in perfect harmony in order to achieve the desired effect.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

After all, the Color Guard would either provide a positive or negative impression of the entire United States Air Force to all of Denmark who would be watching film of the event. There were numerous TV and news cameras on us the whole time.

The event went off without a hitch due to the professionalism displayed by each member of that Rifle Cordon and the Danish and Greenlandic media representatives were highly impressed.

*(Continued on Pg. 8).*



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

Above left: Thule AB Color Guard performs a flag retreat during a POW/MIA Ceremony here. Above right: Thule AB color guard posts the colors, signifying the beginning of the Thule AB SNCO Induction Ceremony. The Thule Color Guard performs many duties, upholding military traditions. The Color Guard is currently seeking new members to continue their tradition of excellence.

**Send story ideas to the Thule Times at [ThuleTimes@thule.af.mil](mailto:ThuleTimes@thule.af.mil) Want to submit a story or photograph? Call the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs Office at ext. 5678, or stop by Bldg. 461, rm. 9**

# Uniform board incorporates feedback, alters design

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Based on feedback from the six-month wear test, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper decided to expand the current test program to include a pixelated tiger-striped pattern in a new color scheme on the proposed utility uniform.

The expansion does not involve a full test; instead, there will be a limited production to test pattern and color, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the uniform board superintendent.

"The color scheme is only one of many improvements we are testing," Sergeant Dean said.

A small, select group of testers will wear the newest pattern. The solid tiger-striped pattern with its dominant blue overtones is gone. The latest pixelated

test pattern has a more subdued color scheme and is not nearly as distinctive as the one unveiled at the start in August 2003; yet it provides the distinctiveness Airmen have requested, officials said.

"We have sufficient input from Airmen throughout the Air Force to ensure that our uniform decisions are on target with regard to wear, ease of maintenance and fit," Sergeant Dean said. "We kept hearing throughout the test that Airmen loved the wash-and-wear feature and the fit. The design of the uniform will essentially stay the same, with minor modifications based [on] the wear-testers' recommendations."

General Jumper will announce the final decisions regarding the new utility uniform once the test data are analyzed and presented. Determination is expected within the next two months, officials said.

The new design represents a uniform that could be universally worn in all environments, Sergeant Dean said. The unique fit and design will remain the same, as Air Force officials said they want a distinctive uniform for Airmen that fits better and is easier and less expensive to maintain.

"There really wasn't much that Airmen didn't like about the design of the uniform," she said, basing her comment on the large volume of feedback the board received via email, surveys, focus groups and online questionnaires. "We really did capture what they needed and what they wanted."

"The chief of staff listened to the Airmen," Sergeant Dean said. "We asked what they wanted in a uniform, what they needed in a uniform and, as a result, this is exactly what we're getting."



**(Continued from Pg. 2)**

They have been doing the job for a long time and yes, they might be new at supervising, but they know how to get the job done. The more you back them, the more they will back you, and in the long run the better they will make you look in the eyes of your peers and your commander.

Squadron commanders, use these new Master Sergeants. You know they are the backbone of your organization and without them the mission could not and would not get done. They can fill in on crew when you have a manning crunch or they can get that hard to find part when official channels can't find it. When they get that part, don't ask them how they did it; instead marvel at their innovative spirit and their subtle network of connections around the base. Senior NCOs have been there, done that, and have the battle wounds to prove it. Selectees, enjoy your new role. Don't be afraid of it. It will become the most enjoyable and memorable time of your Air Force career. As all new Master Sergeants will find out, we live in glass houses. Everything we do, both on and off duty, is being watched by somebody. Make sure what they see, is your best.

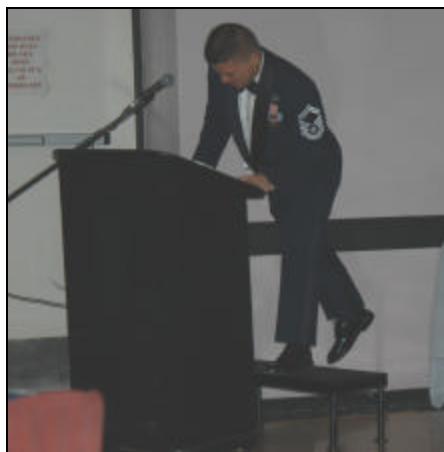


Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

**Top:** The new inductees take the SNCO Oath. **Above left:** Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Stickel "steps up" to the podium before giving the remarks at the ceremony. **Above right:** Colonel John Haven, 821st ABG Commander, presents a SNCO Certificate to Tech Sgt. George Nicolas during the ceremony Oct. 21.

**(Continued from Pg. 1)**

"My wife, Beccy, and I have been in [the Air Force] for 30-plus years and have enjoyed every minute of it," he said. "I've worked hard to be able to hand over my career to today's young Airmen who are just starting their Air Force careers."

General Lord also offered advice for the men and women of Thule, especially during the winter storm season, where darkness prevails from Nov. 15 to Feb. 15.

"It's important to take care of yourself mentally, physically and spiritually," he said. "Everyday you need to get up and do mental, physical and spiritual 'pushups'. Keep doing it, and that's the best insurance you've got."

General Lord also praised the team-

work displayed by the men and women of Team Thule.

"We've been all over and we're very pleased with the teamwork you've shown and how you're working to take care of each other," he said. "The support you provide is great for all of the people here; military, civilian and contractors alike. Thanks to all of you."

Master Sgt. Vinson Simmons, 821 ABG First Sergeant, remarked that the AFSPC leadership visit brought a morale boost to Airmen here.

"A visit like this is important for the troops here at such a remote location." He said. "It lets them know that senior leadership is concerned with their well-being and wants to ensure that they have the tools they need to complete the mission."



**Top:** General Lord visits with Chaplain (Capt.) Dave DePinho and Capt. James Allman of "The Dave and Jay Show". **Bottom:** General Lord is greeted upon arrival to Thule AB Oct. 23.



# Light box tips for winter “sun”

## 821 SPTS/SG Staff Report

It's that time of year again. The weather is getting colder and skies are dark. It's time to pull out your light box, otherwise known as the “happy lamp.”

Here are a few tips to get the most out of your light box use.

- Start out with 20-30 minute light therapy sessions for two weeks

- Use the light within the first two to three hours of waking for optimal results

- Stay close to the light. Movement & distance decreases the light's effectiveness.

- If you're not having Seasonal Affective Disorder symptoms or if symptoms have subsided, you can decrease your light box usage to approximately 15 minutes a day

If you have any questions regarding

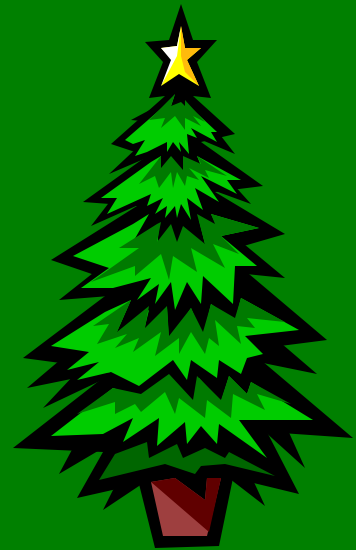


Courtesy Photo

A light box, a.k.a “happy lamp”, simulates sunlight during Thule's three-month dark season.

light box use or Seasonal Affective Disorder, contact 821 SPTS/SG at 2696.

**Don't Miss it!**  
**Thule AB Christmas**  
**Tree-lighting**  
**Nov. 5, 1300**  
**Bldg. 461, 821 ABG HQ**



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**Volunteer for the Thule Air**  
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**For more info., call Tech**  
**Sgt. Keith Turney at 3068.**

## Picture This



A C-135, Speckled Trout, arrives at Thule AB Oct. 23, carrying General Lance W. Lord, Air Force Space Command Commander. The aircraft has dual missions of providing executive airlift to senior Department of Defense leaders and testing avionics and communication software and equipment for the Air Force.

### (Continued from Pg. 4)

Recently, I've taken the reigns of the Color Guard as the previous NCOIC had fulfilled her year here and headed off to the warmth of Panama City, Florida. It has been a very rewarding experience for me to see young Airmen grasp the meaning of many of our traditions in the Air

Force.

Whether it is a promotion ceremony for a Technical Sergeant ascending the ranks and joining the Senior NCO tier, or a Quarterly Awards Luncheon, the Color Guard is a vital part of it. When the Colors are posted, the members move in synchronicity and perform their move-

ments with skilled precision. As the flag bearers post the flags, they go through movements that many in the audience do not understand, yet each is vital to the ceremony.

Being first a member and currently the NCOIC of the Thule Air Base Color Guard has been one of the highlights of my year at Thule. Even though I'd been in the Air Force for quite some time, there were still many things for me to learn about the functions of the Color Guard and the vital role they play.

We are all encouraged to "Get out of our rooms", "Volunteer to do things", "Be a part of the community", and I've volunteered to be a part of several events at Thule. None though, have been nearly as rewarding as being a member of the Color Guard. So, if you are looking for a something that is professionally rewarding and personally satisfying to do with some of your off-duty time, please consider joining the Thule Air Base Color Guard and being a proud member of a truly professional group of Airmen.

## AFSPC activates NSSI

By Capt. Johnny Rea  
AFSPC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - Air Force Space Command stood up a space education and training organization recently that officials here say will provide the foundation to creating a new generation of space professionals.

The National Security Space Institute will be the Department of Defense's single focal point for space education and training, complementing existing space education programs at Air University, the Naval Postgraduate School, and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

"Through extensive space education and training programs, the NSSI will help shape and create the growing team space professionals across the DOD and other stakeholder government communities," said Lt. Col. Ed Fienga, AFSPC Space Professional Management Office.

NSSI courses when coupled with the rigorous operational qualifications demanded of our space professionals will secure the U.S. advantage in space, Gen. Lance W. Lord, commander, Air Force

Space Command.

The Space Warfare Center's Space Operations School at Schriever AFB was redesignated as the NSSI on Oct. 1 with an official activation ceremony today at Peterson AFB.

The new institute will incorporate the current programs provided by the Space Operations School, and eventually expand and integrate space-related education from other DOD activities. NSSI will be a primary subordinate unit that reports directly to AFSPC. An Air Force Reserve associate unit, projected for Fiscal Year 2006, will provide added support to NSSI programs.

About 2,500 students are expected to attend the institute annually, according to Colonel Fienga, including service members from all branches of the armed forces as well as representatives from the National Reconnaissance Office, NASA, and other national agencies. Air Force students will comprise nearly 60 percent of the attendees. NSSI will conduct and coordinate space education, training, research and development programs for government space organizations. These

programs will address space system capabilities, limitations, vulnerabilities and employment; system acquisition; and space warfighting tactics and planning to provide full-spectrum professional development for space personnel in a variety of space missions and organizations.

Colonel Fienga said the current courses taught by the Space Operations School will continue under NSSI: a combination of "legacy" courses focused on space application to joint war fighting, as well as Space Professional Development Courses. Eventually, the institute will incorporate other courses, where appropriate, presented elsewhere in DOD to eliminate redundancy.

"Space warfighting systems and capabilities are integral to our success in fighting today's battles and the linchpin to all planning and execution for success in tomorrow's battles," said General Lord. "NSSI's integrated approach to space education and training will ensure optimum opportunities for the advancement of space systems knowledge and will ultimately enhance mission effectiveness."



## Holiday Season in sight—"Operation Julemand" continues

821st Air Base Group Chapel  
Staff Report

"As long as we cannot be home with our own children, let's bring a little happiness to the children of the area".

These were the sentiments of the base service officer, Captain John McTamney, and Airman First Class Delbert Cox, CBF clerk, when they began "Operation Julemand" in 1959.

In the years that followed, Thule's Danish, American, Canadian and Greenlandic residents raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that have gone to make the Christmas season a little brighter for thousands of children.

Julemand translated from Danish to English means "Santa Claus", and "Operation Julemand" is a program where donations are collected from Thule-ites and used to bring the meaning of the Christmas season to the children of the Qaanaaq village.

The Julemand program includes several events:

Gifts are purchased for the children of Qaanaaq with the Operation Julemand funds by the Danish Li-

aision Officer each year in advance of Christmas to insure the gifts arrive on time.

The residents of Thule will wrap these gifts in a special event at the Base Hospital Nov. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. This is also a fun time in a

**"As long as we  
cannot be home  
with our own chil-  
dren, let's bring a  
little happiness to  
the children of  
the area."**

Captain John McTamney, and  
Airman First Class Delbert Cox  
1959

party atmosphere.

The Tree lighting ceremony will take place in front of the 821st Air Base Group Headquarters Building

Nov. 5 at 1 p.m.. The tree and star on South Mountain will be lighted at the same time after a few words from Colonel John S. Haven, the 821st Air Base Group Commander. After the lighting, hot chocolate and cookies will be available at the community center.

Finally, the "Big Event," the "Julemand Festival," will take place at Hanger 7 Saturday Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. and will last for about four hours. Activities include a dunking machine, an auction, a raffle, a jail, the very best Danish & Greenlandic and American food delicacies, and many other exciting events.

The Julemand Festival is an annual highlight activity for the members of the Thule Community and definitely something no one will want to miss!

Finally there are change jars and smaller scale activities around the base to collect funds throughout the year.

We are counting on everyone here in the Thule community to make the 2004 season the very best Operation Julemand program in Thule History!

**Have a  
photograph or  
story  
for the  
Thule Times?**

**Submit it to  
ThuleTimes@thule  
.af.mil**

*(Continued from Pg. 3)*

The chief also talked about the importance of a college education.

"Education has shown itself to be one of the greatest tools of growing this professional noncommissioned officer corps," Chief Murray said.

"If you're a technical sergeant and don't have your (Community College of the Air Force) degree, I would encourage you to work on it," he said. "We're discussing ... making the CCAF degree a required part of professional development. I'm not sure if there are going to be points [for promotion] associated with it, but it may be that you won't be promoted to master sergeant [without a CCAF degree]."

Chief Murray told the Airmen that they will go down in someone's "history book"; it is just a matter of how they will be remembered.

"[There are] senior NCOs that you don't find in history books, like John Levitow, but they will always be in my history book as people who have shaped me, and [made me] who I am in today's Air Force," he said. "I would ask you: whose history book are you in? I hope you're in a history book of an Airman whom you've had a positive effect on and not a negative one." (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

# The Lighter Side of Thule



Trick  
or Treat!



Recently promoted or  
awarded a medal?  
Did you just arrive at  
Thule?  
Let folks back home  
know about it.  
Fill out a Hometown  
News Release—stop by  
Public Affairs, Bldg.  
461, rm 9, or call 5678.



## Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. John Haven II, 821st Air Base Group commander  
1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble, chief, public affairs  
Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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